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Recipe of the month

Festive Guacamole Appetizers

2 tubes (8 ounces each) refrigerated seamless crescent dough sheet
1-1/2 teaspoons taco seasoning, divided
20 pretzel sticks, broken in half
4 ounces cream cheese, softened

1 cup guacamole
2 medium sweet yellow peppers
1 medium sweet red pepper
1 medium green pepper
Chopped fresh cilantro, optional

Prep Time: 1 hour Bake: 10 min. + cooling Yield: 40

1 Preheat oven to 375°. On an ungreased baking sheet, unroll one tube of crescent dough and press into a 13x8-in. rectangle. Prick with a fork; sprinkle with 3/4 teaspoon taco seasoning. Repeat with remaining dough and seasoning.

2 Bake until golden brown, 10-12 minutes. Transfer to wire racks to cool completely.

3 Cut each rectangle crosswise to make 4 strips (about 8x4-in.). For trees, cut each strip into 5 triangles, reserving scraps at each end for another use. For trunks, insert a pretzel piece into the base of each triangle.

4 Beat cream cheese and guacamole until smooth; spread over trees. Halve and seed peppers. Cut 40 stars from yellow peppers using a 3/4-in. star-shaped cookie cutter. Dice and julienne remaining peppers for tree decorations. Decorate trees with pepper pieces and, if desired, cilantro. Refrigerate until serving.

Source: https://www.tasteofhome.com

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Everybody's Talking

Cat museum: A Dutch cat lover adored his pet feline so much that, when the animal died, he founded a museum in its honour. Called KattenKabinet (Cat Cabinet), the museum is a tribute to a cat named John Pierpont Morgan. Owner Bob Meijer was known to buy gifts for Morgan's birthdays, and he enjoyed the company of this feline, who lived from 1966 to 1983. Located in Amsterdam, KattenKabinet displays works of art, including paintings, sculptures, and books, which reveal the roles of cats over the centuries. Today, five cats call the building home. The museum is open to visitors, who might spot one of the live felines amongst the artwork.

Lifesaver: Who says dogs don't have a sixth sense? A couple from Glastonbury, Connecticut (U.S.), absolutely believe that they do. Jeff and Kelly Dowling have a Boston terrier named Henry who alerted Kelly to the fact their baby girl was in distress in her crib. The baby had a cold, which didn't seem too serious, but Henry kept butting at the nursery door with his head. Kelly ignored the behaviour at first, but then the baby woke up and her cry was unusual. Her mom saw that she was badly congested and struggling to breathe. The baby was treated at the hospital and is now fine. The Dowlings credit Henry with saving their child's life.

What's in a name? A couple loves the Irish name "Sean" (pronounced "Shawn") so much that they christened both of their twin boys with the moniker. One is spelled "Sean" and the other is spelled "Seen." As the family's surname is "Sean," the boys will be "Sean Sean" and "Seen Sean." The story got out on social media, and lots of people responded to the couple's decision with criticism. Amused by the comments, the couple admitted that they'd possibly made a mistake in the naming process. Baby "Sean Sean" will keep his moniker, but baby "Seen Sean" might get a new first name.

Rock movers: Anyone who wants to try moving a gigantic granite rock with their bare hands should visit the Huelgoat Forest in western France. This forest includes many large boulders and rocks; one is known as La Roche Tremblante (Trembling Rock). The rock, which weighs about 137 metric tonnes (about 150 U.S. tons) and is 7 metres (23 feet) long, can be made to teeter a bit with just a push, due to how it rests on a large, rocky base. To rock this rock, someone has to know exactly where to push it. The area gets many visitors, most coming to try to move the hunk of granite, which is also known as the Logan Stone.

Quoteable Quotes

"All great art is the work of the whole living creature, body and soul, and chiefly of the soul." —John Ruskin

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science." —Albert Einstein

What's Happening

Nov 23 to Dec 31 - Luminaria Come stroll through the candlelit pathways of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden, sip hot apple cider, enjoy a capella singers and spot magical glittering ice sculptures. University of Alberta Botanic Gardens - 51227 Hwy 60, Parkland County AB, Alberta

Jan 30 - Will's Jams This prodigy will give you a morning of pure fulfillment with his witty wordplay and sing-along choruses the perfect kick-start to the day. Horizon Stage 10am, more info at www.horizonstage.com

Dec 1 to 31 - Youth Drop In Free drop in at the Salvation Army Community Centre 165 Liberton Dr. from 2:30-5:30pm every Tuesday is basketball and Thursday is hangouts

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Trivia

1. Which bay in Atlantic Canada has the world's highest tides?
2. Mickey Mouse has five fingers on each hand—T/F?
3. The League of Nations was founded in 1919, 1920, or 1923?
4. In medieval Scandinavia, "thing" meant ____.
5. Which U.S. state is known as the Yellowhammer State?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

While you are likely to have a lot of energy mid-week, you may also find yourself prone to impulsive desires and rash decisions. Consider waiting a few days before you act. Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 16, 39, 41, 48.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

At the end of the week, you may feel stubborn about something. You might need to decide whether it is important enough to stand your ground or if you can compromise. Lucky numbers: 15, 20, 25, 32, 41, 46.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Are your efforts to accomplish an objective being frustrated right now? Rather than fighting the situation, you might want to consider how to make an adjustment in your view of it. Lucky numbers: 7, 9, 14, 17, 45, 47.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

If you are feeling stressed by having too much on your plate right now, take a step back and breathe. Be careful about your stress spilling over into your relationships. Lucky numbers: 1, 4, 7, 10, 39, 43.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)

Do you feel that the universe is asking you to be more of an adult than you think you can handle right now? If you reach deep within, you may find that you can. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 9, 11, 17, 27.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Are you feeling out of sorts right now? Your normal, grounded attitude may be disrupted by a higher ethereal vibration. How might you use this energy to stretch beyond your usual comfort zone? Lucky numbers: 13, 25, 28, 33, 34, 40.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Libras are usually very considerate of the emotions of others, sometimes above their own feelings. For a few days this week, though, you may find your needs have to come first. Lucky numbers: 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 45.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

At the week's end, you may experience a short circuit in your usual intuitive abilities. If so, focus for a few days on something that requires a practical and well-grounded attitude. Lucky numbers: 10, 18, 27, 30, 37, 39.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Are you feeling opposition to your efforts from others around you? Perhaps the best course is to avoid engaging in an argument, and find a path that will accommodate everyone's interests. Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 8, 17, 32, 44.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The next several weeks may be marked by confusion surrounding everyday conversations and activities. Clearly communicating your ideas and plans could be especially important, particularly in a relationship. Lucky numbers: 9, 11, 16, 24, 33, 45.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You may have had your nose to the grindstone for some time now. It may be time to look for an opportunity that will reward you for all that hard work. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 15, 22, 24, 42.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

The week starts with an astrological environment that may heighten your ability to tap into the ethereal realm. Just try to be sure to keep a tether to the real world. Lucky numbers: 8, 19, 20, 33, 40, 41.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Libra winners with the luckiest number being 7.

Did You Know...

Rich fish: Goldfish, those little water creatures that live in many aquariums, are considered lucky in some Asian cultures. That's because their gold colour is considered a sign of prosperity and wealth.

Good and clean: Wanting a clean house doesn't have to mean paying for expensive, store-bought products. Make a cleaner using rubbing alcohol, distilled white vinegar, and water. A drop of essential oil adds a lovely aroma.

Goody treat: Marshmallows, a treat most kids love, taste great when scorched over a fire, and they also go well in hot chocolate. They are made from sugar, corn syrup, and gelatin, whipped with air.

Drawing screen: A favourite children's toy in the 1960s was the Etch-A-Sketch. The mechanical screen was not digital, but had two knobs that kids' could use to draw pictures. Shaking the screen erased the drawing to start afresh.

Funny name: In the southwestern part of Ontario (Canada) is a town called Punkeydoodles Corners. Its name has attracted so much attention that the welcome sign was stolen many times. Finally the town stopped replacing it.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Waddle. Waddle who? Waddle I do if you won't see me?

"Are there many skunks around?" "No, they are phew and far between."

Customer: "Do you have frog's legs?"
 Waiter: "Yes, we do."
 Customer: "Well, hop into the kitchen. I'd like a sandwich."

Why didn't the nervous rooster cross the road? Down deep he was really a chicken.

They may look distant on a map but Ireland is just one C away from Iceland.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Bay of Fundy 2. False 3. 1920 4. Political assembly 5. Alabama

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